DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 308 367 CE 052 788

AUTHOR Damin, Monther Abdel Hameed; Hodinko, Bernard A.
TITLE Career Choice Attitudes of Jordanian Adolescents Related to Educational Level of Parents.
PUB DATE 87
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Career Choice; Career Education; Decision Making; Developing Nations; *Educational Attainment; Educational Research; Family Characteristics; Foreign Countries; High Schools; *High School Students; *Parent Background; *Parent Influence; Parent Role
IDENTIFIERS *Jordan

ABSTRACT

A study examined how the educational level of parents related to the career-choice attitudes of adolescents. The Career Maturity Inventory Attitude Scale, Form A-1, was translated into Arabic and used to assess the attitudes and feelings about making a career choice and entering the working world of a sample of 841 students enrolled in 28 high schools in Jordan in spring 1989. Students completed a second instrument, the Personal Data Inventory, to report data about themselves and their parents' socioeconomic and educational status. Data indicated that the educational level of parents was significantly related to the career attitudes of Jordanian youth of high school age. As the educational level of the father and mother increased, the disposition of their adolescent child progressed toward making a career choice and entering the job market. Unfortunately, although adolescents appeared ready to receive and internalize meaningful vocational information, their primary providers--father and mother--lacked the knowledge to provide it. Over 50 percent of the parents had not completed secondary school. The implication was that secondary schools in Jordan needed to direct more attention to parents as career resources for their children. (Author/YLB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED308367

CAREER CHOICE ATTITUDES OF JORDANIAN ADOLESCENTS RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARENTS

by

MONTHER ABDEL HAMEED DAMIN

And

BERNARD A. HODINKO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

M Damin
B Hodinko

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

AUTHORS

DR. MONTHER ABDEL HAMEED DAMIN, Assistant Professor, Muta'h University, Jordan

DR. BERNARD A. HODINKO, Professor of Higher Education, The American University, Washington, D.C.

CE052785

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ABSTRACT

This study ascertained the relationship between the career-choice attitudes of 841 Jordanian adolescents and the educational level of their parents. The Career Maturity Inventory Attitude Scale, Form A-1, by Crites (translated into Arabic) was the assessment instrument. Study findings are discussed in terms of enhancing the career-choice process in Jordan.

Some of the problems that Jordanian adolescents face concerning career choice are universal to all adolescents. These problems include developing the ability to make a realistic assessment of self, of weaknesses and strengths, and of the job market itself. They also include overcoming well-meaning, but often limiting, familial and social pressures and prejudices concerning vocational choice.

In Jordan, as in other Arab countries, the family, both immediate and extended, is often an adolescent's sole source of vocational information. The family and friends serve as important sources of career information for Jordanian youth because of cultural norms and the limited nature of vocational guidance programs in Jordanian secondary schools. While Jordanian high schools offer textbook-based courses, as regular classes, on such subjects as agriculture, commerce, and carpentry, there are no seminars on vocational choice as such nor are there individually-geared guidance programs on vocational choice (Theodory, 1982). In fact, many secondary schools do not have guidance counselors on their premises. Familial ties and family traditions are the chief influences concerning vocational matters.

Social pressures are strong in Jordan, too. Jordanian society holds manual work, however skilled, in far lower esteem than intellectual, professional work. In fact, certain manual jobs actually

stigmatize the esteem in which an entire family is held and are considered badges of shame. Hence, Jordanian adolescents face great social pressure to become physicians or engineers, for instance, irrespective of the dictates of the job market, national need, or spaces available for such training. Under such circumstances, it is understandable that Jordanian youth often make unrealistic decisions about their vocational future and that a pattern of secondary-school enrollment lopsidely in favor of the academic, rather than the vocational, curriculum has emerged. Neither serves Jordan's needs as a developing country.

The Problem and Study Methodology

Recognizing the family as the primary source of vocational information for Jordanian youth, the writers questioned how one of its aspects, namely, educational level of parents, related to the career-choice attitudes of adolescents. They hypothesized that a significant relationship would be found between the two variables. The Career Maturity Inventory Attitude Scale, Form A-1, (CMI), developed by Crites in 1978, was used to assess the attitudes and feelings about making a career choice and entering the working world of a sample of 841 students enrolled in 28 high schools in Jordan in the spring of 1989. Forty-four percent of the students were male. About one-third were in each the 10th, 11th or 12th grade.

The CMI was translated into Arabic for this research. It was administered by research assistants to the students assembled in

groups in the schools of reference. Student anonymity was guaranteed. In addition, the students completed a second instrument, The Personal Data Inventory, constructed by the writers, to report certain data about themselves and their parents socio-economic and educational status.

Hypothesis testing utilized the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences program. Through the analysis of variance (ANOVA) the value of F, or ratio of variance between dependent and independent variables was computed. The .05 level was used as the standard for statistical significance.

Study Findings and Discussion

The data used to determine the relationship between the career-choice attitudes of the study sample of Jordanian adolescents and the educational level of their parents are presented in Tables 1 and 2. The reported F-values, 18.52 (father) and 9.69 (mother), indicate that the educational level of parents is significantly related to the career attitudes of Jordanian youth of high-school age. As the educational level of each the father and the mother increases, the disposition of their adolescent child progresses toward making a career choice and entering the job market. The data further show that 513 fathers and 647 mothers, about 60% and 76% respectively of the 841 total of each, had not completed secondary school.

These findings suggest a dilemma. Jordanian adolescents appear ready to receive and internalize meaningful vocational information but its primary providers in their culture, father and mother, lack the knowledge to provide it. Theodory (1982), also, has

TABLE 1

CMI Mean Standard Deviation and F-Test for 841 Jordanian Students by Educational Level of Father

Educational Level of Father (Number of years of schooling)	N	SD	M	F
Below completion of secondary school	513	4.77	22.26	
Secondary school completed including those with some college	154	4.47	23.86	18.52*
Completion of four year college or university	174	4.56	24.56	

*Significant at the .05 level or better.

TABLE 2

CMI Mean Standard Deviation and F-Test for 841 Jordanian Students by Educational Level of Mother

Educational level of Mother (Number of years of schooling)	N	SD	M	F
Below completion of secondary school	647	4.83	22.60	
Secondary school completed including those with some college	131	4.42	23.96	9.69*
Completion of four year college or university	63	4.15	24.90	

*Significant at the .05 level or better.

found this situation in the Arab world based on his study of 2,999 students in Lebanon:

> Students' personal interest seems to play a major role in their career decisions. In the absence of professional guidance and counseling programs, students tend to seek counseling from parents and friends. Parents, in this case, are hardly qualified for this task....A great many fathers lack the educational preparation and training necessary to help their children (p. 129).

Jordan is a Third World country. It is also an Arab country. The family is the chief source of vocational information, both because children often inherit businesses or obtain vocational training from their parents (this is particularly true of fathers and sons), and because of the lack of guidance counselors and programs in the schools. Career information that most often is given to adolescents is generally incomplete and does not warn them that they face a job market that is already saturated concerning some of the more prestigious vocations, such as medicine and engineering. The result, unfortunately, is that many young adults in Jordan face unemployment rather than career fulfillment.

An implication of study findings that seems very important to the writers is that secondary schools in Jordan direct more attention toward parents as career resources for their children. This could be done through the development of school guidance programs featuring adult education and parental seminars following the pattern of community education programs typically offered in community colleges in the United States. Offerings would be of little or no cost to learners, would not carry diploma or degree credit and would be held at locations convenient to those for whom they are intended. It

seems necessary to recognize the importance of familial influence in the Arab culture. However, the knowledge level of parents regarding careers and primary career-choice considerations must be enhanced if they are to more appropriately fulfill such responsibility to their children along lines of providing vocational guidance.

References

Crites, J.O. Career maturity inventory theory & research handbook (2nd ed.) Monterey, California: CTB/McGraw-Hill, 1978.

Crites, J.O. (1978). Administration & use manual. (2nd ed.) Monterey, California: CTB/McGraw-Hill,

Damin, M. (1984). The behavioral problems of adolescents in Jordan. Unpublished master's thesis. University of Jordam, Amman, Jordan.

Friesen, J. (1986). The role of the family in vocational development. International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling, 9, 87-95.

Melhem, A., Abo-GazaLAH, H., & Zakaria, Z. (1986). Guidance and vocational counselingg program: A field study sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Jordan. Amman (In Arabic).

Soliman, A.M. (1986). The counseling needs of youth in the Arab countries. International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling, 61, 61-72.

Theodory, G.C. (1982). Career maturity of Lebanese students in higher education. International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling, 5, 121-130.

Wehrly, B. (1982). Cultural and social influences on career guidance: An overview. International Journal for the Advancement of Counseling, 5, 131-140.